



## DSA BULLETIN

**DATE:** October 31, 2002  
Revised: September 27, 2004

**TO:** **DSA JURISDICTION:** where state funds are utilized for any project or where funds of counties, municipalities or other political subdivisions are utilized for the construction of elementary, secondary or community college projects.

**GOVERNING BODIES:** where funds of counties, municipalities or other political subdivisions are utilized except as otherwise provided above.

**CITY AND COUNTY JURISDICTIONS:** The building department of every city, county, or city and county within the territorial area of its city, county, or city and county, where private funds are utilized. Building department means the department, bureau or officer charged with the enforcement of laws or ordinances regulating the erection or construction, or both the erection and construction, of buildings.

### OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

**FROM:** Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect

**SUBJECT:** EXCEPTION TO THE INDEPENDENT ENTITY EVALUATION AND  
PRODUCT APPROVAL OF DETECTABLE WARNINGS AND  
DIRECTIONAL SURFACES

---

### 1. AUTHORITY

This bulletin is issued pursuant to the authority granted by California Government Code Section 4460, which authorizes the Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect (DSA) to grant exceptions to the product approval of detectable warnings and directional surfaces.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Federal and California state regulations currently require detectable warnings and directional surfaces that warn blind or visually impaired persons of hazards, or that provide for directional wayfinding.

The 2001 triennial edition of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, contains new regulations aimed at implementing Section 4460 of the California Government Code. Under these new regulations; detectable warning products and directional surfaces require evaluation and product approval by an independent entity selected by the Division of the State Architect as set forth in CCR, Title 24, Part 1 (California Building Standards Administrative Code), Chapter 5, Articles 2, 3, and 4; Part 2 (California Buildings Standards Code) Sections 1102A.3-C, 1117A.4.7, 1102B, 1127B.5(8), 1131B.4, 1133B.8.3, 1133B.8.4, 1133B.8.5); Part 12 (California Referenced Standards Code) Chapter 12-11A and 12-11B.

## **3. SUMMARY**

The development of an evaluation and approval program for detectable warning products and directional surfaces is currently underway; however it will not be fully implemented by the November 1, 2002 effective date of the 2001 California Building Standards Codes.

Until the DSA evaluation and product approval program for detectable warning products and directional surfaces is implemented and product approvals can be issued, DSA will accept a written five (5) year product warranty provided by the manufacturer of detectable warning products and directional surfaces. Such warranty shall indicate compliance with architectural standards as published in the current edition of the California Building Standards Code, and also include durability criteria which indicate that the shape, color fastness, confirmation, sound-on-cane acoustic quality, resilience, and attachment will not degrade significantly for at least five (5) years after initial installation.

As used in this bulletin, "not degrade significantly" means that the product maintains at least 90 percent of its approved design characteristics, as determined by the enforcing agency.

NOTE: Consult with the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) when these products and surfaces may be mandated for use in residential housing.

#### **4. QUESTIONS**

For questions regarding this bulletin contact:

Derek Shaw  
Associate Architect  
Division of the State Architect  
Office of Universal Design  
1102 Q. Street, Suite 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3965

Phone: (916) 445-8100  
Email: [derek.shaw@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:derek.shaw@dgs.ca.gov)

#### **5. AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE FORMATS**

Copies of this bulletin are available in the following formats: standard print, large print, audiocassette tape, and computer disk. Copies can be obtained by calling the Division of the State Architect, Office of Universal Design at (916) 445-8100.